

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 02401 261856Z

67

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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R 261845Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7186

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY MADRID

S E C R E T PARIS 02401

EXDIS

E.O. L1652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MASS LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE ARMS CONTROL

REF: (A) STATE 6146; (B) PARIS 935; (C) LONDON 01115

1. JACQUES LEPRETTE, FOREIGN MINISTRY DEPUTY POLITICAL DIRECTOR, CALLED US IN LATE JANUARY 23 TO RESPOND TO OUR EARLIER DEMARCHE ON SUBJECT OF LEBANESE ARMS CONTROL (REF B).

2. LEPRETTE SAID THAT AS RESULT OF OUR DEMARCHE, FOREIGN MINISTRY INSTITUTED THOROUGH REVIEW OF EXPORT CONTROL PROCEDURES TO DETERMINE IF THERE WERE ANY POSSIBILITY OF ILLEGAL FRENCH ARMS SHIPMENTS TO UNAUTHORIZED PURCHASERS IN LEBANON, EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY. REVIEW INDICATED THAT STRICT CONTROLS INSTITUTED AT BEGINNING OF LEBANESE HOSTILITIES SEEM TO BE WORKING

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PAGE 02 PARIS 02401 261856Z

VERY WELL, LEPRETTE SAID. THERE HAVE BEEN NO EXPORT

AUTHORIZATIONS FOR ANY PRIVATE GROUPS, BUSINESSMEN OR ANY INDIVIDUALS NOT CONNECTED TO THE LEBANESE ARMY. THE LATTER HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED PURCHASES OF SMALL AMOUNTS OF SPARE PARTS FOR EQUIPMENT PREVIOUSLY PURCHASED.

3. LEPRETTE, WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MR. DESCHAMPS OF THE EXPORT LICENSING OFFICE, SAID THAT GOF HAS ALSO EXAMINED SITUATION IN OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY BELGIUM AND SPAIN, TO DETERMINE IF ANY FRENCH ARMS MIGHT BE GOING TO LEBANON INDIRECTLY THROUGH EUROPEAN MIDDLEMEN. THE GOF HAS BEEN UNABLE TO UNCOVER ANY EVIDENCE OF INDIRECT FRENCH ARMS TRAFFIC. IN SHORT, ALL FRENCH ARMS SHIPPED ABROAD ARE COVERED BY A NON-REEXPORT CLAUSE, AND GOF FINDS NO EVIDENCE THAT THIS CLAUSE IS BEING VIOLATED IN ANY OTHER COUNTRY.

4. ON WHAT ELSE MIGHT BE DONE, LEPRETTE SAID GOF IS SHORT ON IDEAS. NEITHER GOF NOR US HAS MUCH POWER OVER WHAT OTHER MANUFACTURING COUNTRIES DO. A COMMON DECLARATION OPPOSING ARMS TRAFFIC WOULD ONLY GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE MANUFACTURING COUNTRIES HAVE DECIDED TO STOP BEATING THEIR WIVES. NEVERTHELESS, IF WE HAVE ANY SPECIFIC IDEAS FOR ACTION, OR IF WE HAVE UNCOVERED EVIDENCE OF INDIRECT FRENCH ARMS TRAFFIC, THE GOF WILL BE GLAD TO COOPERATE IN SEEING WHAT POSSIBLE ACTIONS MIGHT BE TAKEN.

5. COMMENT: GOF APPARENTLY FEELS PRESSURE IS OFF, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY, NOW THAT LATEST SYRIAN MEDIATION EFFORT SEEMS TO BE WORKING. IF THERE IS ANY EVIDENCE OF FRENCH ARMS TRAFFIC MOVING THROUGH ILLEGAL CHANNELS, WE ARE PERSUADED GOF WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO STOP IT.

RUSH

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Message Attributes

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